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JOHN LEE HOOKER



# record research

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JOHN LEE HOOKER

Courtesy of Larry Cohn



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BLUES RESEARCH is a vehicle for exploring the  
vast field of contemporary blues recordings.

THE RECORDS OF JOHN LEE HOOKER

By Anthony Rotante and Paul Sheatsley

Collectors of "country blues" early recognized John Lee Hooker  
as a major artist, and as far back as 1952 Anthony Rotante and  
George Brymer worked out a provisional discography which was  
published in Discophile No. 27.

As the authors implied at that time, Hooker is an unusually  
difficult and tantalizing artist to "discographize". His output is  
prolific; 198 known sides are listed in the pages to follow. A large  
proportion of his sides were cut by independents who sold or leased  
the masters to a wide variety of record companies -- and these  
companies, as often as not, released them under some pseudonym  
rather than under Hooker's own name. Some of the sides turn up  
on two different labels not otherwise known to have any relation-  
ship. And to make things still more difficult, many of the labels  
are out of existence now and there is no access to their files.

Joe Von Battle of Detroit, who claims to have recorded about  
fifty titles by Hooker, is quoted as saying that the man has cut so  
many different records for so many different companies that it  
would be impossible to ever compile a complete listing. Never-  
theless, progress is being made.

In an interview with Hooker during his appearance at the  
Village Gate in New York in February 1960, Rotante and Sheatsley  
obtained his recollection of the personnel on most of the Modern  
dates, established his authorship of the "Johnny Williams" sides  
listed on P. 5 herein, and picked up some biographical data.  
Marcel Chauvard and Jacques Demetre managed to obtain access  
to the Vee-Jay data, including personnels and recording dates.  
Ron Pavšner in an interview with Von Battle in Detroit, discovered  
some facts about Hooker's early recording activities in that city.

John Lee Hooker was born in Clarksdale, Miss., August 22,  
1917. He started to play guitar in 1930 and took inspiration from  
his stepfather William Moore. He played and sang with various  
local Baptist groups: The Big Six in 1938, the Delta Big Four in  
1940, the Fairfield Four in 1942. By this time he had various gigs  
for parties, but says he didn't play professionally till he moved to  
Detroit.

During World War II and for a time thereafter, Hooker worked  
in factories in Memphis and Cincinnati. He moved to Detroit in  
1948 and must have started his recording career that same year.  
Pavšner says: "The first man to cut Hooker owns a radio store at  
623 E. Lafayette (Detroit). His name is Barbeé.  
He cut "Boogie Chillun" in his back room and sold the master to  
Sensation." The first of the "Texas Slim" sides is listed in the  
1949 King catalogue and must have been recorded prior to that  
year.

Hooker says he had his own band in Detroit in 1951 and recalls  
the personnel as Ellis Johnson (ts), Wesley Marshall (p), Little  
Eddie Kirkland (2nd g), Leo Johnson (d). None of these men ex-  
cept Kirkland appear to have recorded with him. Doug Watkins  
has given the following personnel to Kurt Mohr for a Hooker group  
he says he recorded with in 1951 or so: Claude Black (p), unknown  
(vib), Doug Watkins (b), Eugene Brown (d). The date has not  
yet been identified.

Hooker has played in many different clubs in Detroit: the New  
Olympia, Apex, Forest Inn, J.B. Bar, Club Basin, Vogue, Huddy  
Color Bar, etc., and has had many road tours around the country.

On all known recordings, Hooker plays an amplified electric  
guitar.

JOHN LEE HOOKER & HIS GUITAR (g & vo)

1949-1955

B 7003	Mod 20-627 A	SALLIE MAY (JLH)	Crown CLP 5157
B 7004			
B 7005			
B 7006	Mod 20-627 B	BOOGIE CHILLEN (JLH)	Crown CLP 5157
B 7007	Mod 20-714 B	DRIFTIN' FROM DOOR TO DOOR (JLH)	
B 7008B	Mod 20-663 A	HOB0 BLUES (JLH)	Crown CLP 5157
B 7009			
B 7010			
B 7011	Mod 20-730 B	HOWLIN' WOLF (JLH)	
B 7012	Mod 20-714 A	CRAWLIN' KING SNAKE (JLH)	Crown CLP 5157

Crown LP titled "The Blues - John Lee Hooker"  
'Boogie Chillun' also on Kent 332

same. Eddie Burns (hoa) on 7039 & 7040.

B 7033	Mod 20-688 A	WHISTLIN' AND MOANIN' (JLH)	JS 762, Voge v2102,
B 7034			Crown CLP 5157
B 7035			
B 7036A	Mod 20-663 B	RHYTHM NO. 2 (JLH)	'Talking'
B 7036B	Mod 20-663 B	HOOGIE BOOGIE (JLH)	'Talking' JS 762,
B 7037			Voge v2102, Crown CLP 5157
B 7038			
B 7039	Sensation 34	MISS ELOISE (JLH)	Regal 3295 (R1354)
B 7040	Sensation 21	BURNIN' HELL (JLH)	

same.

B 7053	Mod 20-688 B	WEEPIN' WILLOW BOOGIE (JLH)	Crown CLP 5157
B 7054	Sensation 21	MISS SADIE MAE (JLH)	

7550	Mod 852	GROUND HOG BLUES
7551	Mod 852	LOUISE

Note: 7550 & 7551 have been reported with a U- prefix, which  
may place them among the Chess sides. The same two titles  
were issued on Chess 1482 with master numbers U-7330 and U-7326.

same. Unknown (p) on 8017.

B 8010	Mod 20-746 A	NO FRIEND AROUND (JLH)	
B 8011	Mod 20-746 B	WEDNESDAY EVENING (JLH)	
B 8012	Sensation 26	CANAL STREET BLUES (JLH)	
B 8013	Mod 20-730 A	PLAYIN' THE RACES (JLH)	
B 8014	Sensation 26	HUCKLE UP BABY (JLH)	
B 8015			
B 8016			
B 8017	Sensation 30	LET YOUR DADDY RIDE (JLH)	Mod 20-790 A
B 8018	Sensation 30	GOIN' ON HIGHWAY NO. 51 (JLH)	

same.

B 8035	Sensation 33	MY BABY'S GOT SOMETHING	
B 8036	Sensation 33	DECORATION DAY BLUES	
B 8037	Sensation 34	BOOGIE CHILLEN #2 (JLH)	Regal 3295
B 8038			
B 8039			
B 8040	Mod 20-767	ROLL 'N ROLL	
B 8041			
B 8042	Mod 20-790 B	ONE MORE TIME (JLH)	
B 8043			
B 8044			
B 8045			
B 8046			
B 8047	Mod 20-767	GIVE ME YOUR PHONE NUMBER	
B 8048 (R1400)	Regal 3304	NOTORIETY WOMAN (JLH)	
B 8049 (R1401)	Regal 3304	NEVER SATISFIED (JLH)	

JOHN LEE HOOKER (g & vo)

B 9001	Mod 814	JOHN L'S HOUSE RENT BOOGIE	Crown CLP 5157
B 9002	Mod 814	QUEEN BEE	Crown CLP 5157



with bass?  
MM 1560 Mod 829 WOMEN IN MY LIFE (JLH)  
MM 1561 Mod 829 TEASE ME BABY (JLH)  
MM 1635 Mod 835 HOW CAN YOU DO IT (JLH-Taub) 2 guitars?  
MM 1636 Mod 835 I'M IN THE MOOD (Hooker-Taub) unknown 2nd  
voice, Kent 332 Crown CLP 5157  
MM 1637 Mod 847 ANYBODY SEEN MY BABY (JLH) Crown CLP 5157  
MM 1638 Mod 847 TURN OVER A NEW LEAF (1952 Blues) (JLH)  
MM 1637/38 as by JOHN L. HOOKER

acc. Buddy Johnson (organ & shimes); Jimmy Turner (d) & Vibes  
MM 1797 Mod 862 \*COLD CHILLS ALL OVER ME (JLH) Crown CLP 5157  
MM 1798 Mod 862 ROCK ME MAMA (JLH)  
1797 on Crown as "Cold Chills".

JOHN LEE HOOKER and "LITTLE" EDDIE KIRKLAND: Hooker (g & vo);  
Kirkland (organ on 1857, 2nd guitar on 1858).

MM 1857 Mod 876 IT HURTS ME SO (Hooker-Taub) - vo duet  
MM 1858 Mod 876 I GOT EYES FOR YOU (Hooker-Taub)

JOHN LEE HOOKER (g & vo), acc Johnny Hooks (sax); Boogie Woogie  
Red (Vernon Harrison) (p); Jimmy Turner (d).

MM 1926 Mod 893 NEW BOOGIE CHILLEN  
MM 1927 Mod 893 I TRIED  
MM 1928 Mod 897 IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME BABY (JLH)  
MM 1929 Mod 897 ROCK HOUSE BOOGIE (JLH) - guitar only

same personnel.

MM 1951 Mod 901 RIDE TILL I DIE (JLH)  
MM 1952 Mod 901 IT'S STORMIN' AND RAININ' (JLH) - guitar only

JOHN LEE HOOKER (g & vo), acc Boogie Woogie Red (p); Eddie  
Kirkland (2nd g).

MM 1970 Mod 908 LOVE MONEY CAN'T BUY (JLH)  
MM 1971 Mod 908 PLEASE TAKE ME BACK (JLH)

unaccompanied.

MM 2016 Mod 916 TOO MUCH BOOGIE (JLH)  
MM 2017 Mod 916 NEED SOMEBODY (JLH)

MM 2049 Mod 923 DOWN CHILD (JLH)  
MM 2050 Mod 923 GOTTA BOOGIE (JLH)

MM 2088 Mod 931 I WONDER LITTLE DARLING (Gant)  
MM 2089 Mod 931 JUMP ME (One More Time) (Joses)

acc. Otis Finch (sax); Joe Hunter (p); Thomas Whitehead (d).

MM 2098 Mod 935 I TRIED HARD (JLH)  
MM 2099 Mod 935 LET'S TALK IT OVER (JLH) - 2nd g, vo duet??

acc. Eddie Kirkland (2nd g).

MM 2127 Mod 942 COOL LITTLE CAR (JLH)  
MM 2128 Mod 942 BAD BOY (JLH)

acc. Otis Finch, Johnny Hooks (sax); Bob Thurman (p); Thomas  
Whitehead (d).

MM 2148 Mod 948 HALF A STRANGER (Hooker-Ling) - guitar only  
MM 2149 Mod 948 SHAKE HOLIER AND RUN (Hooker-Ling)

acc. Otis Finch (sax); Boogie Woogie Red (p); Thomas  
Whitehead (d).

MM 2186 Mod 958 TAXI DRIVER (Taub)  
MM 2187 Mod 958 YOU RECEIVE ME (Taub) - g only?

same.

MM 2216 Mod 966 HUG AND SQUEEZE (Hooker-Ling)  
MM 2217 Mod 966 THE SYNDICATOR (Hooker-Ling)

unaccompanied.

MM 2277 Mod 978 LOOKING FOR A WOMAN  
MM 2278 Mod 978 I'M READY

acc. Eddie Kirkland (2nd g).

MM 3013 Mod 886 KEY TO THE HIGHWAY (JLH)  
MM 3014 Mod 886 BLUEBIRD BLUES (JLH)

TEXAS SLIM (g & vo)

1948-1949

5590 King 4283-B STOMP BOOGIE (TS) - no vocal. King 4504  
5591  
5592 King 4283-A BLACK MAN BLUES (TS)

5679 King 4323-A NIGHTMARE BLUES (TS) Audio Lab AL-1520-B  
5770-2 King 4366-AA LATE LAST NIGHT (TS) Audio Lab AL-1520-B  
5771 King 4334 WANDERING BLUES  
5772 King 4334 DON'T GO BABY Audio Lab AL-1520-B  
5773 King 4315 DEVIL'S JUMP Audio Lab AL-1520-B  
5774 King 4323-AA I'M GONNA KILL THAT WOMAN (TS)  
5775-1 King 4377 MOANING BLUES King 4504, Audio Lab AL-1520-B  
5776 King 4315 THE NUMBERS

5790 King 4329-AA HEART TROUBLE BLUES (TS)  
5791 King 4329-A SLIM'S STOMP (TS)

5890-1 King 4377 THINKING BLUES Audio Lab AL-1520-B  
5891-1 King 4366-A DON'T YOU REMEMBER ME (TS)  
-"Don't You Remember Me" & "Late Last Night" also on Fed 12377.  
Note: King 4504 as John Lee Cooker. Audio Lab and Federal as  
John Lee Hooker. Audio Lab AL-1520 is titled "Highway of Blues  
by Sticks McGhee and John Lee Hooker" (rev. Sticks McGhee).

JOHN LEE BOOKER (b) or JOHN LEE HOOKER (h) (g & vo). 1948-1949

U 60 Gone 60 (b) MAD MAN BLUES (Terry-Chess) Chess 1462 (b)  
U 61 Gone 61 (b) BOOGIE NOW (JLB) Chess 1462 (b)

U 7326 Chess 1482 (b) LOUISE Chess LP 1438  
U 7327 Chess 1505 (h) HIGH PRICED WOMAN (JLH) " " "  
U 7328 Chess 1505 (h) UNION STATION BLUES (JLH) " " "  
U 7329  
U 7330 Chess 1482 (b) GROUND HOG BLUES " " "  
U 7331 Chess 1467 (h) LEAVE MY WIFE ALONE (James Collier) " " "  
U 7332  
U 7333 Chess 1467 (h) RAMBLIN' BY MYSELF (Ruth Thomas) " " "

U 7432 Chess 1513 (h) WALKING THE BOOGIE (JLH) " " "  
U 7433 Chess 1513 (h) SUGAR MAMA (JLH) " " "

Acc. unknown (p).

U 7597 Chess 1562 (h) IT'S MY OWN FAULT (JLH) " " "  
U 7598 Chess 1562 (h) WOMEN AND MONEY (JLH) " " "

(h) LOVE BLUES " " "  
(h) DOWN AT THE LANDING " " "  
Chess LP 1438 as "House Of The Blues By John Lee Hooker"

JOHN LEE BOOKER (g & vo)

ca. 1950

Chance 1108 MISS LORRAINE  
Chance 1108 TALKIN' BOOGIE  
Chance 1110 GRAVEYARD BLUES  
Chance 1110 I LOVE TO BOOGIE

U 2060 Chance unissued 609 BOOGIE  
U 2061 Chance unissued ROAD TROUBLE

JOHN LEE BOOKER (Deluxe-Rockin) or JOHN LEE HOOKER (g & vo) on  
(Chart). prob. 1953

GR 15118-1 Deluxe 6046 MY BABY DON'T LOVE ME (JLB)  
GR 15119-1 Deluxe 6004 BLUE MONDAY (JLB) same as I AIN'T  
GOT NOBODY (Rocky Groce) Chart 614  
GR 15120 Chart 614 MISBELIEVING BABY (Eddie Castleberry)  
GR 15121  
GR 15122-1 Chart 609 WOBBLIN' BABY (No composer credit)  
GR 15123 Deluxe 6032 POURING DOWN RAIN (JLB) Rockin 525  
GR 15124-1 Chart 609 GOIN' SOUTH (Ed Cook)  
GR 15125-1 Deluxe 6046 REAL REAL GONE (JLB)  
GR 15126-1 Deluxe 6004 LOVIN' GUITAR MAN (Booker-Braddock)  
GR 15127 Deluxe 6032 STUTTERING BLUES (JLB) Rockin 525

JOHNNY WILLIAMS (g & vo)

Date - ?

Staff 704 MISS ROSIE MAE Prize 704  
Staff 704 HIGHWAY BLUES Prize 704  
Staff 710 WANDERING BLUES Gotham 506  
Staff 710 HOUSE RENT BOOGIE Gotham 506  
Staff 717 I GOT LUCKY Swt 255  
Staff 717 LET'S RENEW OUR LOVE Swt 255  
Swt 266 BUMBLE BEE BLUES  
Swt 266 PRISON BOUND

BL-1 Gotham 509 QUESTIONNAIRE BLUES (Williams)  
BL-2 Gotham 509 REAL GONE GAL (Williams)  
BL-3 Gotham 513 LITTLE BOY BLUE (Williams)  
BL-4 Gotham 513 MY DADDY WAS A JOCKEY (Williams)

Swt - SwingTime

JOHN LEE HOOKER (g & vo), acc unknown (tp), (ts), (p), (b), (d).  
prob. 1954

50-48 JVB 30 B BOOGIE RAMBLER  
50-49 JVB 30 A NO MORE DOGGIN'

The following four titles are probably from the same date.  
F-159 Fortune 846 CURL MY BABY'S HAIR (JLH) - acc: p, d.  
F-160 Fortune 846 609 BOOGIE (Lewis Starr) - add ts, no vo.

Fortune 853 LOVE YOU BABY (JLH)  
Fortune 853 CRY BABY (JLH)  
Fortune 855 CRAZY ABOUT THAT WALK  
Fortune 855 WE'RE ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

Fortune 855 is by SIR JOHN LEE HOOKER  
The following has same accompaniment as Modern 958 and may  
fit with that date.

JOHN LEE HOOKER (g & vo), acc Otis Finch (sax), Boogie Woogie  
Red (p), Thomas Whitehead (d).

SP-528 Specialty 528 EVERYBODY'S BLUES (JLH)  
XSP-528 Specialty 528 I'M MAD (JLH)

JOHN LEE HOOKER (g & vo), acc Jimmy Reed (harm); Eddie Taylor (b-g);  
George Washington (b); Thomas Whitehead (d).  
Chicago, October 19, 1955

55-336 VJ 265 UNFRIENDLY WOMAN  
55-337 WHEEL AND REEL (or Wheel and Deal?)  
55-338 VJ 164 MAMBO CHILLUN  
55-339 VJ 164 TIME IS MARCHING VJ 1007

Omit Reed. Chicago, March 27, 1956

56-443 VJ 233 I'M SO WORRIED BABY (JLH)  
56-444 VJ 205 BABY LEE (JLH) VJ 1007  
56-445 VJ 205 DIMPLES (JLH-Braeken) VJ 1007  
56-446 VJ 188 EVERY NIGHT (JLH) VJ 1007  
56-447 VJ 233 THE ROAD IS SO ROUGH (JLH)  
56-448 VJ 188 TROUBLE BLUES (JLH)

acc. Otis Finch (ts); Eddie Taylor (b-g); George Washington (b);  
prob Thomas Whitehead (d). Chicago, June 7, 1956

56-479 DON'T GET TIRED  
56-480 STOP TALKING  
56-481 TIME AND A HALF  
56-482 LONELY BLUES

acc. Eddie Taylor (b-g); Quinn Wilson (b); Thomas Whitehead (d).  
Chicago, March 1, 1957

57-633 EVERYBODY ROCKIN'  
57-634 VJ 245 I'M SO EXCITED (JLH) VJ 1007  
57-635 VJ 245 I SEE YOU WHEN YOU'RE WEAK (JLH)  
57-636 MEAN OLD SHAKE

acc. Frankie Bradford (p); Eddie Taylor (g); Everett McGrary (b);  
Richard Johnson (d). Chicago, July 23, 1957

57-717 VJ 255 LITTLE WHEEL  
57-718 LITTLE FINE WOMAN  
57-719 VJ 255 ROSIE MAE  
57-720 VJ 265 YOU CAN LEAD ME BABY  
57-721 instr.

acc. Joseph Hunter (p); Everett McGrary (b-g); Richard Johnson (d).  
Chicago, June 10, 1958

58-927 VJ 293 I LOVE YOU HONEY (Freddie Williams) VJ 1007  
58-928 VJ 293 YOU'VE TAKEN MY WOMAN (JLH)

58-929 MAMA YOU GOT A DAUGHTER  
58-930 I'M GONNA LOVE YOU  
58-931 BOOGIE  
58-932 ROSE ROOM

Note: Marcel Chauvard reports that the last 3 sides are not by  
John Lee Hooker though made at the same session. Vocals are by  
Joe Hunter in personnel above. Presence of Hooker is not  
certain.

JOHN LEE HOOKER (g & vo), acc Eddie Taylor (b-g); Earl Phillips (d)  
Chicago, Jan. 22, 1959

59-1067 VJ 308 MAUDIE (JLH) VJ 1007  
59-1068 VJ 319 TENNESSE BLUES  
59-1069 VJ 308 I'M IN THE MOOD (JLH) - omit Phillips VJ 1007  
59-1070 VJ 319 BOOGIE CHILLUN (JLH) - omit Phillips VJ 1007  
& Taylor

59-1071 VJ 331 HOBO BLUES (JLH) - " " " VJ 1007  
59-1072 VJ 331 CRAWLIN KING SNAKE - " " " VJ 1007

JOHN LEE HOOKER (g & vo) Detroit, April 1959

"THE COUNTRY BLUES OF JOHN LEE HOOKER"

Riv RLP 12-838 BLACK SNAKE  
HOW LONG  
WOBBLIN' BABY  
SHE'S LONG SHE'S TALL  
PEA VINE SPECIAL  
TUPELO BLUES  
I'M PRISON BOUND  
I ROWED A LITTLE BOAT  
WATER BOY  
CHURCH BELL TONE  
BUNDLE UP AND GO  
GOOD MORNING, LITTLE SCHOOLGIRL  
BEHIND THE PLOW

JOHN LEE HOOKER (g & vo), acc: Sam Jones (b), Louis Hayes (d).  
New York, Feb. 9, 1960

"THAT'S MY STORY: JOHN LEE HOOKER SINGS THE BLUES"  
Riv RLP 12-321 I NEED SOME MONEY (JLH) Riv R45-438  
COME ON AND SEE ABOUT ME (Jones, Hayes out)  
I'M WANDERIN'  
DEMOCRAT MAN (Jones, Hayes out)  
I WANT TO TALK ABOUT YOU  
GONNA USE MY ROD  
WEDNESDAY EVENIN' BLUES  
NO MORE DOGGIN' (JLH) Riv R45-438  
ONE OF THESE DAYS  
I BELIEVE I'LL GO BACK HOME  
YOU'RE LEAVIN' ME, BABY  
THAT'S MY STORY (Jones, Hayes out)

JOHN LEE HOOKER (g & vo) Chicago, Mar. 1, 1960  
acc Lefty Bates (g); Sylvester Hickman (ba); James Turner (d).

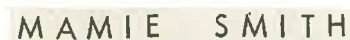
"JOHN LEE HOOKER - TRAVELIN' "

Vee-Jay LP 1023 60-1373 I WANNA WALK  
60-1374 CANAL STREET  
60-1375 I'LL KNOW TONIGHT  
60-1376 I CAN'T BELIEVE  
60-1377 GOING TO CALIFORNIA  
60-1378 WHISKEY AND WOMEN  
60-1379 RUN ON  
60-1380 SOLID SENDER Vee-Jay 349  
60-1381 SUNNY LAND  
60-1382 DUSTY ROAD Vee-Jay 366  
60-1383 I'M A STRANGER  
60-1384 NO SHOES Vee-Jay 349

JOHN LEE HOOKER (g & vo) Recorded at Newport Festival - 1960

60-1622 HOBO BLUES  
60-1623 MAUDIE  
60-1624 TUPELO Vee-Jay 366





compiled by **Len Kunstadt and Bob Colton**

This is a tribute to Perry Bradford's 'First Lady of the Blues', colorful prima donna Mamie Smith who set the pattern for future generations of blues-singers. She not only successfully introduced the very first authentic blues recording in 1920, - but she laid the foundation for the enormous blues industry which was to follow her and which has been giving employment to thousands of people of all races. In the 20s her name was synonymous with the word, success. Her furs, jewelry, apartment buildings, lover's quarrels, gun-chasing antics were receiving much notoriety. The advent of a recording session by Mamie was nearly enough to declare a national holiday in the Negro districts of the nation. It has been nearly 20 years since Mamie Smith has passed on to her reward. She has left 93 known recorded sides, at least 2 movies and a great many memories for those who were fortunate enough to see and hear her in person.

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**The Road Is Rocky**  
**It's Right Here for You**  
AND  
**CRAZY BLUES**  
RECOMMENDED BY  
**PERRY BRADFORD**  
—  
**AT YOUR MUSIC DEALER**  
BE SURE YOU GET  


Jan. 1, 1923

# LAFAYETTE THEATRE

710 N. W. 12TH ST.      DIRECTOR OF CULINARY ARTS.

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**One Week Only Com. Mon. Jan. 1**

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GRAND NEW YEAR BILL'S      MATINEE DAILY

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NOTE: Continous New Years Day From 2 to 11

---

**THE WIDELY KNOWN**

## MAMIE SMITH

---

**— AND HER —**

---

### CELEBRATED JAZZ HOUNDS

---

3 - SAUNDERS - 3	Blond ROBINSON	The McCARVERS
KELLER & WATERS	Salem Park & Co.	Jean O'NEAL & Co.

---

## THE GERTIE MILLER TRIO

---

BIG MIDNIGHT SHOW EVERY **FRIDAY**

---

CONTINUOUS SUNDAY FROM 2 to 11





ROSA HENDERSON



FLETCHER HENDERSON



LENA WILSON



VIOLA MCCOY



PORTER GRAINGER

NO one can get the harmony, sway and crooning appeal of blue numbers to equal the Race Artists, and the following records are perfect examples of these popular modern songs:—



EDNA HICKS

- 14635**—Down South Blues .....Waters-Henderson  
—Where (Can That Somebody Be?) ....Mills-Rose
- 14632**—Sad'n' Lonely Blues .....Grainger-Wilson  
—Just Thinkin' .....Viola McCoy
- 14631**—Your Time ('Twill Be Mine After a While)  
Lena Wilson  
—I Need You To Drive My Blues Away  
Lena Wilson
- 14633**—Bleeding Hearted Blues .....Viola McCoy  
—If You Want To Keep Your Daddy Home  
Viola McCoy
- 14636**—Gulf Coast Blues—Fox Trot ..Henderson & Orch.  
—Down Hearted Blues—Fox Trot  
Henderson & Orch.
- 14651**—Afternoon Blues .....Lena Wilson  
—Michigan Water Blues .....Lena Wilson
- 14652**—If You Don't Give Me What I Want  
Rosa Henderson  
—So Long To You and the Blues ..Rosa Henderson
- 14650**—You've Got Everything a Sweet Mama Needs  
But Me .....Edna Hicks  
—Walkin' and Talkin' Blues .....Edna Hicks
- 14653**—'Taint No Tellin' What the Blues Will Make  
You Do .....Viola McCoy  
—'Bama Bound Blues .....Viola McCoy
- 14654**—Do Doodle Oom—Fox Trot ...Henderson & Orch.  
—Ditty Blues .....Henderson & Orch.

10 in. \$ .75

The AEOLIAN COMPANY

Aeolian Hall

New York

# RACE ARTISTS VOCALION RED RECORDS

Compiled by Bob Colton  
Len Kunstadt

The following is an "advanced exploratory label-listing" of Vocalion Race Recordings by blues-vocalists who recorded for the Vocalion label from May 1923 through September 1924 just before the Brunswick company took over the reins. We would like to impress upon our readers that this project is exploratory in scope and demanding of further research.

We would particularly welcome data (complete artist, composer credits; masters, etc) on VOCALION 14632 (VIOLA MCCOY), 14634 (ETHEL WATERS), 14682 (ROSA HENDERSON), 14689 (VIOLA MCCOY), 14818 (VIOLA MCCOY), 14860 (ETHEL WATERS), 14874 (LETHIA HILL-ALTA CATES), 14902 & 14910 (LENA HENRY), 14911 (MONETTE MOORE). In addition every other listing should be checked for other takes.

For those who are not acquainted with the method of exhuming the 5-digit combination master-take numbers appearing on the Vocalion labels at this time, may we suggest the following procedure. Employ a soft lead pencil (no.2) and gently apply a coating of lead around the 9 o'clock vicinity of the label. This should produce the hidden numerals. You can best remove the lead marks by using a soap eraser.

You may observe that many recording dates are herewith presented, most of which are absent from our standard discographical works. These dates came from a recently-discovered cache of data which had belong to the late Eugene Williams who apparently obtained them from the Decca company

14626 and 14627 - NOT BY ROSA HENDERSON BUT ACTUALLY BY LIEUT. F.W. SUTHERLAND 7TH REG. BAND AND HOMER RODEHEAVER RESPECTIVELY.

May 23, 1923-June 5, 1923  
14631 LENA WILSON - PIANO ACC. - FLETCHER HENDERSON - YOUR TIME NOW (TWILL BE MINE AFTER AWHILE) (SPENCER WILLIAMS) 11480/ I NEED YOU TO DRIVE MY BLUES AWAY (HENDERSON) 11557 (our listing)

June 27, 1923  
14632 VIOLA MCCOY - PIANO ACCOMPANIMENT BY PORTER GRAINGER SAD 'N' LONELY BLUES (GRAINGER-WILSON)/ JUST THINKIN' (Source: Vocalion Red Records Supplement -Sept.1923)

June 27, 1923  
14633 VIOLA MCCOY & PIANO ACCOMPANIMENT BY PORTER GRAINGER BLEEDING HEARTED BLUES (LOVIE AUSTIN) 11659/ IF YOU WANT TO KEEP YOUR DADDY HOME (GRAINGER-RICKETTS) 11661 (our listing)

June 28, 1923  
14634 ETHEL WATERS (titles, masters etc. needed)

June 28, 1923  
14635 ROSA HENDERSON - PIANO ACCOMPANIMENT BY FLETCHER HENDERSON - WHERE (CAN THAT SOMEBODY BE) (MILLS-ROSE) 11686-87/ DOWN SOUTH BLUES (WATERS-HENDERSON) 11689 (our listing(s))

August 7, 1923  
14653 VIOLA MCCOY - BLUES - PIANO ACC. BY PORTER GRAINGER TAIN'T NO TELLIN' WHAT THE BLUES WILL MAKE YOU DO (GRAINGER) 11804-05/ BAMA BOUND BLUES (COX-AUSTIN) 11802-06 (our listing(s))


August 8, 1923  
14650 EDNA HICKS - HENDERSON'S ORCH. ACCOMPANIMENT - YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING A SWEET MAMA NEEDS BUT ME 11815/ PIANO ACCOMP. BY CLARENCE JOHNSON - WALKING AND TALKING BLUES 11813

- August 9, 1923  
14651 LENA WILSON - HENDERSON'S ORCH. ACCOMPANIMENT AFTERNOON BLUES (ALLEN-REED) 11823/ MICHIGAN WATER BLUES (WILLIAMS) 11826 (our listing)
- August 21, 1923  
14652 ROSA HENDERSON - PIANO ACCOMPANIMENT BY FLETCHER HENDERSON - SO LONG TO YOU AND THE BLUES (FOWLER) 11860/ IF YOU DON'T GIVE ME WHAT I WANT (CREAMER) 11862 (our listing)
- August 24, 1923  
14659 EDNA HICKS - LEMUEL FOWLER, PIANO - WICKED BLUES 11890/ SQUAWKIN' THE BLUES 11186 (our listing)
- Sept. 26, 1923-Oct. 4, 1923  
14682 ROSA HENDERSON - IT WON'T BE LONG NOW 12018/ EVERY WOMAN'S BLUES 12070 (our listing)  
Note: We have seen 2 labels of above. One listed just PIANO ACCOMPANIMENT BY FLETCHER HENDERSON and the other added SAXAPHONE BY COLEMAN HAWKINS - same takes on each. Aurally-Sax&p on both.
- Sept. 27, 1923  
14689 VIOLA MCCOY - PIANO ACCOMPANIMENT BY PORTER GRAINGER MISTREATIN' DADDY/WISH I HAD YOU (Source -Vo.1924 catalog)
- Oct. 1, 1923  
14688 HAZEL MEYERS - PIANO ACCOMPANIMENT BY LESLIE HUTCHINSON GRAVEYARD DREAM BLUES (COX) 12048/ LOW DOWN PAPA (THAT SWEET MAMA KIND) (WILLIAMS) 12050 (our listing)
- Oct. 26, 1923  
14708 ROSA HENDERSON - PIANO ACCOMPANIMENT BY FLETCHER HENDERSON HE MAY BE YOUR DOG BUT HE'S WEARING MY COLLAR (CREAMER) 12196/ I WANT MY SWEET DADDY NOW 12194 (our listing)
- Oct. 30, 1923  
14709 HAZEL MEYERS PIANO ACCOMPANIMENT BY FLETCHER HENDERSON CORNET BY JOE SMITH - ANFUL MOANIN' BLUES (MILLER) 12211-12/ HE'S NEVER GONNA THROW ME DOWN (BROOKS) 12208-09 (WC ALLEN collection)
- Nov. 30, 1923  
14725 HAZEL MEYERS PIANO ACCOMPANIMENT BY FLETCHER HENDERSON CORNET BY J. SMITH - CHICAGO BOUND BLUES (WILLIAMS) 12379/ MASON-DIXON BLUES (SMITH HENDERSON) 12377 (Walter C. Allen Collection)
- Feb. 18, 1924  
14770 ROSA HENDERSON - PIANO ACCOMPANIMENT BY FLETCHER HENDERSON HEY HEY AND HE HE, I'M CHARLESTON CRAZY (BOOKER-MATSON) 12743-44 / DO RIGHT BLUES (WILLIAMS-HENDERSON) 12745-46 (our listing(s))
- April 3, 1924  
14795 ROSA HENDERSON - PIANO ACCOMPANIMENT BY FLETCHER HENDERSON HOW COME YOU DO WE LIKE YOU DO 12971/ MY PAPA DOESN'T TWO TIME NO TIME 12972 Source: Jazz Directory p.658 - - JD dates this item as March 13, 1924
- April 14, 1924  
14801 VIOLA MCCOY - PIANO ACCOMPANIMENT BY EDGAR DOWELL IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE NOW (EDGAR DOWELL) 13012/ PIANO-BANJO-HARMONICA WEST INDIES BLUES (A CALIPSO) (DOWELL-WILLIAMS) 13007 (our listing)
- May 2, 1924  
14818 VIOLA MCCOY - PIANO ACCOMPANIMENT BY EDGAR DOWELL I DON'T WANT ANYBODY THAT DON'T WANT ME/ MAMMA MAMMA (Source: Vocalion?? supplement)
- May 20, 1924  
14825 ROSA HENDERSON - PIANO ACCOMPANIMENT BY EDGAR DOWELL BLACK STAR LINE (A WEST INDIAN CHANT) (DOWELL & WILLIAMS) 13219/ BARBADOES BLUES (DOWELL & WILLIAMS) 13223 (our listing)
- May 23, 1924-May 24, 1924  
14832 ROSA HENDERSON - PIANO ACCOMPANIMENT BY EDGAR DOWELL CHICAGO MONKEY-MAN BLUES (AUSTIN) 13237/ PIANO ACCOMPANIMENT BY FLETCHER HENDERSON HOW'M I GONNA GET 'EM (WHEN YOU KEEP ON HOLDIN' 'EM BACK) (DOWELL) 13247 (our listing)
- May 24, 1924  
14831 ROSA HENDERSON - PIANO ACCOMPANIMENT BY FLETCHER HENDERSON - BARREL HOUSE BLUES/ 13252/ MY RIGHT MAN 13254 Source: Jazz Directory, p.658. They date it as May 23, 1924
- May 28, 1924  
14838 FLETCHER HENDERSON AND HIS CLUB ALABAM ORCH - VOCAL BY ROSA HENDERSON - DO THAT THING 13273-13274 (reject)-13275/reverse is an instrumental by Henderson The 13275 take-our listing. other take data from Eugene Williams file.
- August 1, 1924  
14860 ETHEL WATERS - PIANO ACCOMPANIMENT - BACK-BITTIN' MAMMA (WALLER) 3455/ PLEASURE MAD (BECHET) 3458 (our listing)  
Note: Please observe that the 1 prefix could not be detected on the copy we inspected.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 20)



*The*  
**LATEST BLUES**  
by  
**Columbia Race Stars**



**Columbia** NEW PROCESS **Records**  
Made the New Way—Electrically  
Viva-tonal Recording—  
The Records without Scratch

Columbia New Process Records



**BESSIE SMITH**  
"The Empress of Blues"

WHEREVER blues are sung, there will you hear the name of Bessie Smith, best loved of all the Race's great blues singers. Bessie has the knack of picking the songs you like and the gift of singing them the way you want them sung. Every year this famous "Empress of Blues" tours the country, appearing before packed houses.

Miss Smith is an exclusive Columbia Artist

**BESSIE SMITH**  
"The Empress of Blues"

- |  |               |
|--|---------------|
| SEND ME TO THE 'LECTRIC CHAIR—<br>Accompanied by Her Blue Boys . . .                     | } 14209-D 75c |
| THEM'S GRAVEYARD WORDS—Accom-<br>panied by Her Blue Boys . . .                           |               |
| MUDDY WATER (A Mississippi Moan)—<br>Accompanied by Her Band . . .                       | } 14197-D 75c |
| AFTER YOU'VE GONE—Accompanied by<br>Her Band . . .                                       |               |
| BACK-WATER BLUES<br>PREACHIN' THE BLUES—Piano Accom-<br>paniments by Jimmy Johnson . . . | } 14195-D 75c |
| YOUNG WOMAN'S BLUES—Accompanied<br>by Her Blue Boys . . .                                |               |
| HARD TIME BLUES—Piano Accompani-<br>ment by Fletcher Henderson . . .                     | } 14179-D 75c |
| ONE AND TWO BLUES—Accompanied by<br>Her Blue Boys . . .                                  |               |
| HONEY MAN BLUES—Piano Accompani-<br>ment by Fletcher Henderson . . .                     | } 14172-D 75c |

141 Made the New Way—Electrically

Columbia New Process Records

**CLARA SMITH**  
"The World's Champion Moaner"

EVERY blues thinks it's full of misery until Clara Smith goes to work on it. Blues, that no ordinary mortal dare tackle, subside into a melodious melody of moans and groans when Clara gets warmed up to her work.

Just look at her smile. What a sight for sore eyes! Listen to her voice. A balm for tired ears! You can hear her voice, and it seems like you can almost get the smile, too, on Columbia New Process Records.



Clara Smith is an Exclusive Columbia Artist

- |  |               |
|--|---------------|
| EASE IT . . . . .  | } 14202-D 75c |
| PERCOLATIN' BLUES—Piano Accompani-<br>ments by Lem Fowler . . . . .                            |               |
| YOU DON'T KNOW WHO'S SHAKIN'<br>YOUR TREE—Acc'd by Her Jazz Babies<br>CHEATIN' DADDY . . . . . | } 14192-D 75c |
| GET ON BOARD—Assisted by Sisters White<br>and Wallace . . . . .                                |               |
| LIVIN' HUMBLE—Assisted by Sisters White<br>and Wallace . . . . .                               | } 14183-D 75c |
| AIN'T NOTHIN' COOKIN' WHAT<br>YOU'RE SMELLIN' . . . . .  |               |
| SEPARATION BLUES . . . . .   | } 14160-D 75c |

Columbia New Process Records

**MARTHA COPELAND**  
"Everybody's Mammy"

WELL known and beloved by all other artists for her friendly disposition and generosity, Martha Copeland is appropriately called "Everybody's Mammy."

Martha is a great singer of blues. She always gives the latest, newest twist to each selection. This friendly star tours the country so frequently that she knows just the kind of music which will appeal to all. Then she records it for Columbia so that all may enjoy it whenever they wish.



Martha Copeland is an Exclusive Columbia Artist

- |  |               |
|--|---------------|
| SORROW VALLEY BLUES . . . . .  | } 14208-D 75c |
| SOUL AND BODY (He Belongs to Me) . . .                                   |               |
| THAT BLACK SNAKE MOAN . . . . .  | } 14196-D 75c |
| MINE'S JUST AS GOOD AS YOURS . . . . .                                   |               |
| ON DECORATION DAY (They'll Know<br>Where to Bring Your Flowers to) . . . | } 14189-D 75c |
| FORTUNE TELLER BLUES . . . . .   |               |
| BLACK SNAKE BLUES . . . . .  | } 14161-D 75c |
| PAPA IF YOU CAN'T DO BETTER . . . . .                                    |               |

Viva-tonal Recording. The Records without Scratch [11]

Columbia New Process Records

**GEORGE WILLIAMS AND BESSIE BROWN**



A HAPPILY married pair, this, and happy are we that we can let you hear them on a Columbia New Process Record.

George plays a lone hand in a couple more that you sure ought to hear.

George Williams and Bessie Brown are Exclusive Columbia Artists

- |                                    |               |
|------------------------------------|---------------|
| YOU CAN'T PROPOSITION ME . . . . . | } 14135-D 75c |
| HIT ME BUT DON'T QUIT ME . . . . . |               |

**GEORGE WILLIAMS**

- |  |               |
|--|---------------|
| WHEN I GET THE DEVIL IN ME . . . . .                                 | } 14201-D 75c |
| WEST VIRGINIA BLUES—Piano Accom-<br>paniments by Roy Banks . . . . . |               |
| LEEVEE BLUES . . . . .   | } 14148-D 75c |
| SOME BABY—MY GAL . . . . .   |               |

**BARBECUE BOB**

- |                                   |               |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| BARBECUE BLUES . . . . .          | } 14205-D 75c |
| CLOUDY SKY BLUES—Vocals . . . . . |               |

Columbia New Process Records

**WILLIE JACKSON**  
"A Big Boy with the Blues"



WILLIE JACKSON is from New Orleans, and is reckoned the greatest male blues fighter of them all. Don't confuse Willie with his famous pugilistic namesake. This boy has never rocked a champion to sleep, but, when he lands on one of them blues, it's down for the count. Willie says there's a whole lot in picking the right manager. That's why he makes records exclusively for Columbia.

- |  |               |
|--|---------------|
| NUMBERS ON THE BRAIN—Banjo Accom-<br>paniment by Buddy Christian . . . . .   | } 14184-D 75c |
| HOLD 'ER DEACON—Piano Accompani-<br>ment by Clarence Williams . . . . .  |               |
| WHO'LL CHOP YOUR SUEY WHEN I'M<br>GONE—Banjo Accom. by Buddy Christian<br>CHARLESTON HOUND—Piano Accom-<br>paniment by Clarence Williams . . . . . | } 14165-D 75c |
| BAD, BAD MAMA<br>SHE KEEPS IT UP ALL THE TIME—Piano<br>Accompaniments by Steve Lewis . . . . .   |               |
| WILLIE JACKSON'S BLUES . . . . .   | } 14136-D 75c |
| OLD NEW ORLEANS BLUES . . . . .  |               |

116 Made the New Way—Electrically

Columbia New Process Records

**ETHEL WATERS**  
"America's Foremost Ebony Comedienne"

GLANCE at Ethel Waters, and you will understand why this Race star is hailed as "America's Foremost Ebony Comedienne." Miss Waters is something more than a singer, something more than an actress—she is one of the greatest artists, in the musical sense, that the Race has yet produced.

Everybody, old and young, white folks as well as Race, flock to the theatre where Miss Waters is appearing. And everybody buys, plays, and loves her records.



Ethel Waters is an Exclusive Columbia Artist

- |   |               |
|---|---------------|
| AFTER ALL THESE YEARS<br>SATISFYIN' PAPA . . . . .  | } 14199-D 75c |
| MY SPECIAL FRIEND IS BACK IN TOWN<br>JERSEY WALK—Piano Accompaniment by<br>Pearl Wright . . . . .                   |               |
| HE BROUGHT JOY TO MY SOUL—Ac-<br>companied by Her Ebony Four . . . . .  | } 14182-D 75c |
| I'M COMIN' VIRGINIA—Accompanied by<br>Her Singing Orchestra, arranged and<br>directed by Will Marion Cook . . . . . |               |
| TAKE WHAT YOU WANT—Piano Accom-<br>paniment by Pearl Wright . . . . .   | } 14170-D 75c |
| WE DON'T NEED EACH OTHER ANY-<br>MORE—Accompanied by Novelty Orch.  |               |

Columbia New Process Records

**CLARENCE WILLIAMS**

WHAT chance has a poor blues got with Clarence Williams? First he writes 'em, then he plays 'em, and then he sings 'em. Everything that can possibly happen to a regular low down blues comes to pass when Mister Williams is around.

Just to pile on the agony, Clarence teams up with Bessie Smith. Hot dog! Let's go!



**CLARENCE WILLIAMS AND BESSIE SMITH**

- |   |              |
|---|--------------|
| DOWNHEARTED BLUES . . . . .                         | } A-3844 75c |
| GULF COAST BLUES . . . . .                          |              |
| BABY, WON'T YOU PLEASE COME<br>HOME BLUES . . . . . | } A-3888 75c |
| OH DADDY BLUES . . . . .                            |              |

**JOHN ERBY**

- |                                |               |
|--------------------------------|---------------|
| LONESOME JIMMY BLUES . . . . . | } 14151-D 75c |
| AWFULLY BLUE—Vocals . . . . .  |               |

Viva-tonal Recording. The Records without Scratch [17]











JOHN LEE HOOKER - DISCOGRAPHY (continued)

This completes the sides definitely known to have been recorded by John Lee Hooker. In addition, there are the following items which may possibly be by Hooker under other pseudonyms.

JOHN LEE (g & vo)

BL-6-1 Gotham 515 MEAN OLD TRAIN  
BL-7-1 Gotham 515 CATFISH  
c.f. Johnny Williams, Gotham 509, masters BL-1, BL-2

JOHN LEE (g & vo), acc piano

F-170 Federal 12089 BABY'S BLUES  
F-171  
F-172 Federal 12054 DOWN AT THE DEPOT  
F-173 Federal 12054 ALABAMA BOOGIE  
F-174 Federal 12089 BLIND BLUES

JOHNNY LEE (g & vo), acc 2nd g.

GV2-113 Deluxe 6009 I CAME TO SEE YOU BABY(JL)  
GV2-114 Deluxe 6009 I'M A BOOGIE MAN(JL)

Joe Von Battle of Detroit, proprietor of the JVB label, says he recorded about 50 sides by Hooker and sold the masters to other companies, namely Chess, King and Savoy. Neither Hooker's name nor any of his usual pseudonyms is on any known Savoy product, but the following two discs are definite Hooker possibilities.

DELTA JOHN (g & vo)

D-1102 Regent 1001 HELPLESS BLUES  
D-1104 Regent 1001 GOIN' MAD BLUES

BIRMINGHAM SAM & HIS MAGIC GUITAR (g & vo)

D-1106 Savoy 5558 LOW DOWN MIDNIGHT BOOGIE  
D-1107 Savoy 5558 LANDING BLUES

The following records, listed as Hooker possibilities by Rotante & Brymer in their provisional discography of Hooker which was published in Discophile No. 27 (December 1952), are are now thought to be other artists.

COUNTRY PAUL: King 4517  
ALABAMA SLIM: Savoy 5553  
CAROLINA SLIM: Acorn 319  
SYLVESTER COTTON: Sensation 7000

-----  
Anthony Rotante Paul B. Sheatsley  
2059 McGraw Ave. 130 W. 12th St.  
N.Y. City 62 N.Y. N.Y. City 11 N.Y.

November 1960  
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ATTENTION! RECORD RESEARCH READERS,  
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WITH A SURPRISING HISTORY-MAKING  
FEATURE.

FORM 3547 REQUESTED

RECORD RESEARCH  
131 HART STREET  
BROOKLYN 6, NEW YORK

Coming: A revision of Tony Parenti's  
discography which appeared in issue 28.

(RACE ARTIST-VOCALION- CONTINUED)

August 5, 1924  
14861 HAZEL MEYERS - PIANO ACCOMPANIMENT - MAYBE SOMEDAY  
(BLUES BALLAD) 13467 / WHEN YOUR TROUBLES ARE JUST LIKE MINE  
(B AND J SPIRES) 13469 (our listing)

Aug. 20, 1924  
14874 LETHIA HILL - OLD NORTH STATE BLUES / ALTA CATES -  
NEMER AGAIN (source: JazzDirectory, p.685)

Aug. 22, 1924  
14873 LENA HENRY - PIANO AND CLARINET ACCOMPANIMENT - LOW DOWN  
DESPONDENT BLUES (DELANEY) 13596 / CONSOLATION BLUES (COOK) 13594  
(our listing)

Sept. 3, 1924-Sept. 15, 1924  
14903 MONETTE MOORE PIANO ACCOMPANIMENT - TEXAS MAN BLUES  
(MOORE) 13641 / PIANO AND CORNET ACCOMPANIMENT - I WANNA  
JAZZ SOME MORE (DELANEY) 13692  
(From Walter C. Allen collection)

Sept. 15, 1924  
14902 LENA HENRY - SINFUL BLUES / FAMILY SKELETON BLUES  
(source: JazzDirectory-p.663)

Sept. 25, 1924  
14910 LENA HENRY - FREIGHT TRAIN BLUES / GHOST WALKIN' BLUES  
(source: JazzDirectory-p.663)

Sept. 25, 1924  
14911 MONETTE MOORE - HEART BROKEN MAMA / DEATH LETTER BLUES  
(Source: Index to Jazz-Vol. 3, p.39)

The end